

Connected Open Heritage: Visibility and searchability of cultural heritage at risk through the Wikimedia projects

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Wars and disasters, negligence and poor maintenance all mean that much of our built cultural heritage, such as monuments, archaeological sites etc., is at risk of being lost forever. Interest and knowledge are needed to prevent its destruction. To help preserve our existing built cultural heritage and to understand lost heritage through recreation and restoration, accurate and reliable information needs to be easily accessible to everyone, for free. Structured and easily searchable data has the potential to make that easier, faster and more interesting than ever before.

Improving the structure and searchability of immovable cultural heritage information from around the world is what the [Connected Open Heritage](#) project has been trying to achieve. We have worked to include contextualized information on *Wikipedia*; new and historical images on *Wikimedia Commons*; and structured data on *Wikidata*.

During the presentation we will talk about some of the challenges and lessons gathered while working with processing a world-unique collection of datasets from 50 countries, working to release new datasets, finding ways to keep it up-to-date, and creating the methodologies for the data to be added to *Wikidata* in a standardized and structured form.

Furthermore, the lessons from the work of finding and adding imagery of the sites from different museums and to engage the Wikimedia volunteers and the public in the process will also be discussed.

The Great Colonnade street and the acropolis with the castle in the background, Palmyra in 2006. It has since been destroyed by ISIS. Created by: [Gianfranco Gazzetti/GAR](#). Licence: [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).



The Connected Open Heritage logotype. Created by: [Shandris](#).
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Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO looks at the [Journeys Through Our Fragile Heritage](#) exhibition at UNESCO HQ. Created by: [Cristelle Alix/UNESCO](#). Licence: [CC BY-SA-3.0 IGO](#).